

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (twice amended) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
a tube defining an interior passage therein;
an optical ribbon disposed in the interior passage of the tube, the optical ribbon comprising a plurality of generally parallel optical fibers arranged in a generally planar array and bound together by a covering of a matrix material surrounding said generally planar array, the optical ribbon having at least a first colored region, a second colored region, and another colored region, wherein the first and second colored regions respectively denote first and second characters of at least a two-character identifier for the optical ribbon serving to indicate an optical ribbon number and the another colored region denotes the type of optical fibers contained in the optical ribbon.

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13. (twice amended) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, the another colored region serving to indicate whether the optical fibers of the optical ribbon are single-mode or multi-mode optical fibers.

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29. (twice amended) A method for making an optical ribbon, comprising:
arranging a plurality of optical fibers generally parallel to one another in a generally planar array;
extruding a covering of matrix material over the generally planar array of optical fibers to cover and bind the fibers together; and
applying a series of colored regions to one side of the covering, the colored regions being in a predetermined arrangement visible at an outer surface of the covering, for conveying identifying information about a predetermined location

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Page 2

3 of the optical ribbon in an optical ribbon stack and the type of optical fibers in the ribbon.

39. (amended) An optical ribbon, comprising:
a plurality of optical fibers arranged generally parallel to one another in a generally planar array; and
a matrix covering that encapsulates and binds together the optical fibers, the matrix covering comprising a plurality of different colored regions formed of a first matrix material and bound respectively to the plurality of optical fibers for identifying the optical fibers, the matrix covering further comprising a second matrix material that intercedes between and maintains the colored regions substantially separate from one another, the first matrix material adhering to the optical fibers with a greater tenacity than the second matrix material, whereby the colored regions tend to remain adhered to the optical fibers and each colored region is bound to less than all of the outer surface of the respective optical fiber;
